

General Lyman Mower House
16 The Green
Woodstock
Windsor County
Vermont

HABS No. VT. 27
HABS
VT
14. WOOD,
2

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GENERAL LYMAN MOWER HOUSE

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Street Address: 16 The Green, Woodstock, Windsor County, Vermont
Present Owner: John Martin, 16 The Green, Woodstock, Vermont
Present Occupant: Owner
Present Use: Residence
Brief Statement of Significance: This unusual, large, brick masonry house is built on the site of the first County Court House in Woodstock, the Windsor County Seat or Shiretown.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Builder and owner originally - General Lyman Mower. A Mrs. Allen owned the house in 1889. It was later owned by the Billings family, then the Bailey family, who sold the house to Lee Anderson of Detroit in 1946. Anderson sold the house to the present owner in 1955.
2. Date of erection: 1823
3. Architect: No information
Builder, suppliers, etc.: Local
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: Unknown
5. Notes on alterations and additions: The frame ell to the rear of the house has had various alterations. The front porch was added after 1860. Lee Anderson, during the period he owned the house (1946-1955), had a great deal of restoration work done to the interiors, making it difficult to determine the authenticity of the various parts. The paneling in the original kitchen, now used as a parlor, dates from the approximate period of the house, but was taken from a house some place in Massachusetts or Connecticut. The exterior preserves its original appearance.
6. References: Henry Swan Dana, A History of Woodstock, Vermont, Houghton, Mifflin and Company, Boston and New York, 1889, pp. 148 et al.
Dorothy and Richard Pratt, A Guide to Early American Homes, North, McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., New York, 1956, p. 82.
Mrs. J. Peter Gratiot, Otis Hill Farm, Woodstock, Vermont.
Mr. John Martin, 16 The Green, Woodstock, Vermont.

- B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: General Lyman Mower, builder and original owner of the house, was a Woodstock businessman, active in real estate transactions, President of the Bank of Woodstock (1832-1837), and Town Selectman (1819-1820).

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby
November 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This large brick house has restored interiors and unusual exterior details.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Front masonry block, approximately 42' x 32', plus masonry ell extending to the rear, approximately 24' x 24', plus frame ell extending to the rear from the masonry ell. Two-and-a-half stories, plus cellar.
2. Foundations: Cut stone foundations
3. Wall construction: Brick, Flemish bond all around. At chimneys, both end walls have tall twin chimneys, webbed between. At cornice line, the end walls cantilever out beyond the cornice on large stone corbels, rise above the roof line, and slope back to roof.
4. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: Approximately 8' wide x 6' deep with four Corinthian columns, paired at the front corners; plain, moulded entablature raised above the column capitals on short, curved stilts; moulded cornice with dentil course; and surmounted by a simple balustrade. A storm porch enclosure is fitted inside the permanent porch, presumably during the winter season only.
5. Chimneys: Four chimneys in end walls of front, main block. One in rear ell.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Six-panel front door, side and fan lighted. Lighted, panel door on west side leading to terrace. Six-panel rear door on east side of ell.

- b. Windows and shutters: Six-light over six-light double hung windows with fixed slat shutters. Blind arch motif in the brick above each window.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gambrel roof, wood shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed, moulded eaves with fine scale twisted bed mould.

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Central hall type plan, with four chimneys in end walls serving the four principal rooms disposed about the central hall. Kitchen in the ell to the rear. Bedrooms upstairs in similar arrangement. Original kitchen in first (masonry) ell now used as a living room, with present kitchen and garage built into second (frame) ell, which originally contained sheds.
2. Stairways: Principal stairway, straight run, in central entrance hall.
3. Flooring: Random widths, plain boards, some wide pine, some hardwood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plastered, papered. Pine paneling in the old kitchen a modern restoration, imported from an unidentified house in either Massachusetts or Connecticut.
5. Doorways and doors: Six panel doors.
6. Trim: Moulded, wood trim. Carved fireplaces and miscellaneous interior cabinet work, some of which possibly dates from 1946-1955 restorations.
7. Hardware: Brass and wrought iron.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central heat, plus fireplaces.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces north on a corner lot on the Town Green, with streets to the north and east sides.
2. Enclosures: White picket fence around two sides.
3. Outbuildings: Attached to the house in rear, frame ell.

4. Walks, driveways, etc.: Driveways and sidewalks.
5. Landscaping, gardens, etc.: Informal - lawn, trees, shrubs, flowers.

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